

**Abstract 128**

**TITLE:** HIV Risk Scenario Among Puerto Rican HIV/AIDS Women

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**OBJECTIVE:** To assess the socio-demographic, behavioral, psychological, clinical and immunological differences of Puerto Rican HIV/AIDS women sample according to their HIV transmission mode.

**DESIGN:** Cross-sectional survey of a longitudinal cohort (n=1,901).

**METHODS:** The HIV Central Registry of the Universidad Central del Caribe has been recruiting HIV/AIDS patients attending the Bayamon Immunologic Clinic and the University Hospital Ramon Ruiz Arnau since may 1992. 1901 patients have been interviewed and a record including socio-demographic, risk related, clinical and immunological data has been created for each one of them. 374 women are actually included in the baseline data base and their main HIV transmission mode were: Injecting Drug Use and Heterosexual Contact. Chi square and t-tests were performed to assess the potential significant differences of those risk groups of women.

**RESULTS:** A high proportion of women in both groups were in a reproductive age, and most of them reported having had children. Nevertheless, IDU's were less often living with a stable partner. The heterosexual group presented with a higher educational profile and were less unemployed. Most women belonging to the heterosexual group (84.7%) reported risky heterosexual behaviors, specially with a partner with AIDS/HIV or with an Injecting Drug User. A high proportion of the IDU's women reported more stress factors, stress and other psychological events. Even if a similar CD4 counts median at baseline was found for both groups, the IDU group arrived more often in an advances stage of the disease (63% vs 52%) with clinical AIDS at first encounter. Within the AIDS defining conditions, IDU's were found to have a significant association with PCP and non-oral candidiasis, and with symptoms such as idiopathic fever and night sweats. This study was sponsored by RCMI/NIH Grant Number G12RR03035.

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